

We claim:

1. A light, comprising:  
a body having a hollow core for holding a power source;  
at least one elongate flexible branch attached at a first end to the body;  
illumination means mounted to a second end of the at least one flexible branch;  
an electrical circuit sufficient to provide an electrical connection for illuminating the illumination means; and  
a switch operable to alternately close and open the electrical circuit.

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2. The light according to claim 1 wherein the illumination means comprises an LED.

3. The light according to claim 2 wherein the at least one flexible branch comprises a flexible material that may be deformed to a bent position and retains the bent position.

4. The light according to claim 3 wherein the body includes a slot formed therein for receiving a tab proximate the second end of the flexible branch, and wherein when the tab is received in the slot the tab is retained in the slot.

5. The light according to claim 3 including a plurality of elongate flexible branches, each branch in the plurality attached at the first end to a body base member and each branch in the plurality spaced apart around a periphery of said body base member.

6. The light according to claim 5 wherein the switch is contained in a recess formed in the body base member.

7. The light according to claim 6 including a flexible membrane covering the switch and defining a fluid tight seal.

8. The light according to claim 5 wherein the switch is configured for a low and high illumination setting when the switch is in a closed position.

9. The light according to claim 5 wherein each branch in the plurality includes a lens at the second end thereof, and wherein each lens covers an LED.

10. The light according to claim 1 wherein the body further comprises openings formed therein.

11. A portable light comprising a body having a base end and an opposite end and a hollow core for holding a power source, a plurality of flexible, elongate arms attached at a first end thereof to the base end of the body and spaced around the periphery thereof, each of the elongate arms having a LED mounted to a second end of the arm and a lens covering the LED, an electrical circuit configured to provide an electrical connection for each LED, and a switch operable to alternately close and open the electrical circuit.

12. The portable light according to claim 11 wherein the electrical circuit further comprises an integrated circuit and the switch comprises a dual position switch such that each LED may be illuminated in a low illumination setting and alternately in a high illumination setting.

13. The portable light according to claim 11 wherein each of the elongate arms further comprises flexible housing means for allowing the arms to be independently bent to bent positions to direct light from the LEDs toward different targets and wherein the flexible housing means allows the arms to retain their bent positions.

14. The portable light according to claim 13 wherein the flexible housing means comprises a flexible plastic material.

15. In a portable light having a hollow body for containing a battery, an illumination element, an electrical circuit configured for providing an electrical connection for illuminating the illumination element and a switch operable to alternately close and open the electrical circuit, the improvement comprising:

plural elongate branch members, each having an LED lamp on a distal end thereof and each branch connected to the body at a proximal end thereof, wherein each LED is electrically connected to the electrical circuit and wherein each branch member is independently bendable to a curved position such that the branch member retains the curved position.

16. The portable light according to claim 15 wherein the body includes a base portion and each of the branch members in the plurality is connected to the base member and spaced around a periphery thereof.

17. The portable light according to claim 16 wherein the base includes a recessed portion and the switch is accessible through the recessed portion.

18. The portable light according to claim 17 including a flexible membrane covering the switch and providing a fluid-tight seal around the switch.

19. The portable light according to claim 18 wherein the electrical circuit further comprises an integrated circuit and the switch comprises a dual position switch such that each LED lamp may be illuminated in a low illumination setting and alternately in a high illumination setting.

20. The portable light according to claim 19 wherein each of the elongate branches further comprises flexible housing means for allowing the branches to be independently bent to curved positions to direct light from the LEDs toward different targets and wherein the flexible housing means allows the branches to retain their curved positions.